

The Feral Cat Times

A publication of the Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project • Serving the Puget Sound • December 2007

Total cats as of
Nov 16th 2007
8461

Total cats
since 1997
37,473

Nine Lives,
Not Nine
Litters.

Increasing
access to feline
spay/neuter....
until every cat
has a home!

Check website or
phoneline for
clinic updates.

www.feralcatproject.org
206-528-8125
11331 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle 98125

Another Milestone!

After celebrating our tenth birthday in September, we're rapidly approaching another major milestone.



We project reaching 40,000 surgeries in February.

We've been busy! We're also on track to perform more surgeries in 2007 than in 2006. Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project clearly addresses a vital need for spay/neuter in our community.

Imagine the impact your support of FCSNP has made. Imagine how many cats have homes, because you support feral cat prevention through spay/neuter. Cats could not receive our help without your ongoing generosity. Thank you!

State Veterinary Association Honors FCSNP

At the Ten Year Anniversary Party for FCSNP, Dr. Sandy Willis, Past President of the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association, presented Dr. Christine Wilford and the FCSNP an award recognizing the ten-year contribution of FCSNP to the cats of our community.

This award is a tribute to all of you who have supported FCSNP by volunteering, donating, bringing in cats or spreading the word about spay/neuter. **Congratulations!**

Most Spay/Neuter in Washington!

It's official – **AGAIN!** In 2006, for three years in a row, we performed the most spay/neuter surgeries in Washington State ending the year with almost 8400 surgeries* - more than twice any other organization.

The good health of our patients is reflected by the low percent of cats euthanized for health reasons (0.4%). Year after year we observe good health of our feral cats. Approximately 45% of cats were male, a slightly higher female ratio than last year. Nearly 200 cats that presented were already altered.

Thanks to your donations, almost 4500 female cats have had their last litter.

Over 8000 cats are gaining weight and living longer lives, because you supported spay/neuter this year.

Tens of thousands of kittens will not be born homeless and alone, because you are saving lives with your donations invested in spay/neuter. Thank YOU for helping Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project help the cats!

**To review the statistics survey with data from all over the state, go to www.wafederation.com and click on "Shelter Statistics Survey". Over 200 surveys were sent; 55 were returned.*



Two hours after his neuter, this little guy is ready for a snack! He and 34 other cats traveled seven hours from Tri-Cities for spay/neuter, because FCSNP is the only high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinic providing access.

Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project

Mission Statement

To save the lives of homeless cats by providing access to high volume spay/neuter surgery in a safe and humane environment, collaborating with others and mentoring like-minded organizations to increase spay/neuter in their regions.

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Together, We Change the World

Where were you in 1997? If you can't recall, some of these reminders might make it easier. Gas prices averaged \$1.40 per gallon. A first class stamp cost 32 cents. But perhaps more memorable, Comet Hale Bopp appeared across our skies and the Grammy for record of the year went to Eric Clapton for "Change the World".

The year 1997 had another memorable event for those who were dedicated to TNR and helping the free-roaming cats in our communities. Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project formed and held the first free spay/neuter clinic in the region.

That September morning began a decade of success and memorable milestones. We grew to increase surgeries from approximately 5,500 in our first five years to that many surgeries in the first full year in our free-standing clinic. At the time of this writing, we have altered almost 9,000 cats this year and anticipate close to 10,000 surgeries by year's end. But in addition to providing high quality, high volume spay/neuter, Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project became a national mentor for other organizations. Through our website, we support organizations wishing to replicate the success of our model program. Throughout all of the milestones and success in our history, one thing has not changed: the underlying mission of providing free and low-cost spay/neuter surgery for cats.

We don't know what great things are in our future for the next decade, but we do know that we will continue to focus on our mission of spay/neuter. Your ongoing donations support spay/neuter and together we can "Change the World" one cat at a time.

From all of us at Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project we wish you a peaceful holiday season.

Julie White - Executive Director

PS: This holiday season consider a gift to FCSNP in honor of someone special on your shopping list. For each donation of \$25 or higher the honoree receives a card letting them know about your thoughtful donation.

Edmonds Police Call FCSNP

When officers from the Edmonds Police Dept realized that their cats and kittens were not getting adopted, they investigated to find out why. The answer? Potential adopters are more likely to adopt cats and kittens that are already spayed and neutered. Upon learning this, the police called FCSNP and a new partnership was born.

On Oct. 18th, we altered three cats for EPD, cats that were awaiting adoption for weeks. Four more cats came on Oct 29th. Altering before adoption is feral cat prevention at its highest level. We are happy to have the Edmonds Police as a new partner in our Feral Cat Prevention Program.



US Public Speaks: Let Free-roaming Cats Live

Alley Cat Allies conducted a nationally representative survey via Harris Interactive. They asked people, if they saw a stray cat and could choose only one of two options, which would it be? The options were 1) leave the cat where it lives or 2) put it down [euthanize it] today. An overwhelming majority of 81% chose to leave the cat where it lives.

Next, Harris Interactive asked a more thought-provoking question. If you knew a cat would die in two years from being hit by a car, would you choose to let the cat live its two years? Or would you put it down now? Again, a vast majority of Americans - 72% - chose to let the cat live out its two years. And think about it. If you knew you'd die in a car wreck in two years, would you rather die now or live out your two years?

This survey states what many of us have believed for years. The majority of people do not advocate catching and killing free-roaming cats, despite what some national organizations claim. Trap and kill is not acceptable to the majority of people in the US.

Americans are compassionate people. Free-roaming cats deserve our compassion. People who feed stray, feral or free-roaming cats are not the minority. We are the majority. We care for free-roaming cats. We care for all cats.

To read the survey in its entirety, look for the Public Opinion Poll at www.alleycat.org.

The last tomcat altered from a group of over 30 cats at one trailer park. All will become healthier after being spayed and neutered.

Great Cattitudes

donations made to celebrate a person or their efforts

Head Butts & Cheek Rubs go to:

Tiffany Buckner

Gretchen Konrady

Christine Wilford, DVM

Steve & Gayle Amorosi

Joe Romatowski, DVM

For his great vet care to our cats over the years- Sharon & Tim Knight

Remo

new kitty loved by Sherrill Speed & Jay Martin
Batya Harlow

Sissy Cat Feral for 6 years that finally decided to let us pet her this year

Jennifer Milton

Susan Dow's Birthday

Karen & Vernon

Pet

Ron Pevsner

Rocky

Susan Feveryear

Deborah Buck

Carl Miller

Natasha & Mommy Kitty

Deborah Marlott

Boomer

Wilma Eads

Carol Ellington's Birthday

Joanne & Douglas Johnson

Linda Dennis

J.E. Paulson & Ruthe Hamlin

Aaron Coutu

Heidy Krauer

Patrick Lang

James Lang

Onyx

Stephanie Edwards

Emma Sweetpea

Barbara Weber

Theodore, Celeste & Kit Kat

Kimberly Berry

Vicki

the intrepid Lynnwood cat trapper

Sugar Arnon

Mrs. Verna Efaw

Anonymous

Molly Hueffed

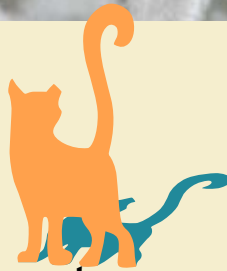
Barbara Doggett

Leki

Carl Shepherd

Natasha & Mommy-cat, ferals that I LOVE!!!

Deborah Marlott



If you would like to highlight someone special with a donation, send us their name along with your donation and look for them in the next issue!



Drs. Birkett and Larson working side by side in our 8' X 10' surgery suite. Our clinic's efficiency is maximized yet the demand for spay/neuter exceeds what we can currently supply in our small clinic.

Public Clinics: All Sundays in 2008
As of January 1st, 2008, all reservations for Sunday clinics will be available to the general public.

Ten-Year Anniversary

What a fantastic turnout for our Ten-Year Anniversary party! Amidst the scenic views of the Shilshole Marina and the Olympic Mountains, many FCSNP friends and supporters filled the Corinthian Yacht Club. Co-founders Karen Stone, Lea Lucky and Dr. Christine Wilford helped celebrate as well as many former Board members, donors, trappers and volunteers. Former Board member John Hebert drove all the way from Yakima to share the fun.

We owe a huge thanks to our fabulous event planning committee headed by Secrette Miller and Michelle Peyree who insured a very successful silent auction. We raised over \$10,000 in sponsorships and donations including a generous \$1000 Challenge Match by the Ark Foundation. Donations from local veterinarians covered costs of the food and club rental.

Jim Dugan, President of the Dugan Foundation, shared glowing words for FCSNP's accomplishments. And the big surprise of the night was an award from the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association honoring our ten years of work helping cats in our community. Thanks to all of you who came and showed your support.

The night made special memories for all of us. We look forward to seeing all of you at our 15 Year Anniversary!

Stand By Slots Are Successful

Free-roaming cats have more access to spay/neuter on short notice, thanks to our stand by surgery slots. This year we began a new approach: we limited clinic reservations to 45 slots and added 10 stand by slots for every public clinic. Stand by allows people to bring free-roaming cats for spay/neuter without a reservation. This works best for free-roaming cats that are obtained on short notice, such as when a trapper gets more cats than expected. Free-roaming cats have first priority for surgery at every public clinic, regardless of whether they have a reservation.

We plan to continue offering stand by slots for surgery in 2008. For more details, see How To Use Our Clinics on our website, www.feralcatproject.org.

Fix It Forum Sold Out!

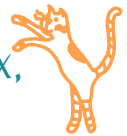
The Fix It Forum held in Chicago in October emphasized high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter (HQHVSN) as a vital means to end the killing of millions of animals in our US shelters each year. The conference, sponsored by PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA, sold out to 500 attendees, including over 100 veterinarians.

Dr. Wilford, President of FCSNP, co-lectured with Dr. July Levy from the University of Florida. Their topic, handling feral cats in the spay/neuter clinic, was well received. Executive Director Julie White and Clinic Director Kim Morgan also attended the conference hearing lectures on all aspects of operating a non-profit spay/neuter clinic.

The highlight of the conference was the obvious strong interest by veterinarians. Veterinarians attended in-depth lectures teaching all aspects of high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter, including standards of care, anesthesia and training. More veterinary interest and training means increased access to spay/neuter across the country.

We are very grateful to PetSmart Charities and the ASPCA for supporting this effort. We hope to see another Fix It Forum next year!

THANK YOU, Nitrox,
our oxygen angels!



Thank You, Ten Year Party Sponsors!!

Veterinary Specialty Center / VCA Hospitals, Lynnwood
Dr. Jerry Woodfield, Northwest Cardiology Consultants, Seattle
Dr. John Kelly, Elliott Bay Animal Hospital, Seattle
Dr. Ken Jacobsen, Redwood Animal Hospital, Redmond
Dr. Evelyn Robertson, Aurora Veterinary Hospital, Seattle
Dr. Anne Brudvik, Woodhaven Veterinary Hospital, Edmonds

Cat Repellants Solve Disputes, Save Lives

Leaving paw prints on cars. Digging in the neighbor's garden. Urinating on someone's porch. Although we all love cats, not everyone does. Finding solutions saves lives.

Many people who complain about free-roaming cats on their property are not interested in having the cats trapped and killed. Most simply want their complaints resolved but don't know how. Solving the complaint may allow cats to stay in their homes without threat of trap and kill.

Humane cat repellants are the answer. Many models are motion activated and spray a jet of water or air (ScareCrow® and Mini Scarecrow® by Contech) or emit an annoying electronic sound (Cat Stop® by Contech). These products are available at scatmat.com.

Another product called Silent Roar is the essence of real lion dung marketed to convince domestic cats to stay away.

Simple environmentally-friendly deterrents work well in bedding plants, eg, sticking chopsticks upright to make passage more difficult or placing chicken wire on the surface of the soil. Cats will move on to look for a comfy place to dig or rest.

More ideas and hints on dealing with neighbors who need solutions can be found on the Alley Cat Allies website (www.alleycat.org), simply search for "deterrents" to view a pdf of their informative brochure.

"She's had at least three litters. She was too smart for a regular trap," the caretaker tells us. This little mother was finally caught with a drop trap. After being spayed, her future is bright.



Thank You, Dugan Foundation!

Over \$7000 rolled in during Raise The Paw at the Dugan Foundation's biennial Fur Ball. The ballroom of supporters donning tuxedos and evening gowns viewed an emotional video produced by Two Dogs Barking Productions. This video was also donated to FCSNP. We are proud to be honored by the Dugan Foundation. Working together, we save more lives. Thank you!

This long-haired tortoiseshell kitten is rare, because it's male! Most people will never see a male torti in a lifetime. Although male torties are usually sterile, we neutered him... just in case!



Your support of FCSNP saves the lives of tens of thousands of cats every year. Your dollars work harder by supporting prevention through spay/neuter. We couldn't continue our vital work without you. Thank You!

DR. WILFORD'S TOP TEN WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SAVING LIVES

1. Compassionate people will always feed free-roaming cats and animals in need.
2. Free-roaming cats are the number one source of kittens entering shelters.
3. Trap-Neuter-Return is the most effective way to prevent shelter intakes of kittens.
4. The number one cause of death of dogs and cats in the USA is not a disease; it is being killed in animal shelters. This is preventable!
5. Infectious diseases that are prevented with vaccines; overpopulation is prevented through spay/neuter.
6. Altering before adoption is the most effective prevention.
7. Whether from rescuers, shelters or pet stores, placing unaltered kittens and cats into homes contributes to overpopulation and death of cats in shelters.
8. More animal organizations must concentrate on spay/neuter of free-roaming cats!
9. There is not enough room in shelters and sanctuaries for all the adoptable and free-roaming cats in our country.
10. Your dollars are changing our community. Together, we're saving lives!

In Memory of

Buff, Flossy, Tommy & Amigo

Marion Roy

Maxine Winnifred Aldrich

Evelyn & Chris Daniels

Janice Rowe

Sally Halela

Kasey O’Ryan

Janis Newman

Friends at MEOW

Earl, much loved cat of Lorian

Hemingway

Batya Harlow

Sanibel & Rumples Teaser Morgan

Christine Wilford, DVM

Jackson LaFuze

Christine Wilford, DVM

Tubby & Popi, kitties who are greatly missed by Sherrill Speed and Jay Martin

Batya Harlow

Sienna

Teresa Cooper

William & Margaret Berkey

David Berkey

Sir Winston, the sailing cat

Cora & Clyde

George Tsujikawa

“a loving and positive force throughout my life”

Kris Tsujikawa

Chloe, The sun shines just for you!

Roxi Smith

Loki, who lived up to his name and was greatly loved by Syrenka Slettebak

Batya Harlow

Cody St Arnaud

Julie White

Robert “Bob” Sheets

Nancy L. Gebert

Susan and Wayne Corey

Thomas & Keisha

Sarah Tucker

Sylvester Larson

Christine Wilford, DVM

80 yr. old neighbor who paid for and took care of feral cats

SueAnn Sendoykas

Chloe

Margaret Colony and Marie Colony

Harold the Cat

Ronni Gilboa and Betty Johanna

Violet

Liza Burke

Paddy & Rory

Christine Wilford, DVM

Mama Blackberry

Karen Stone

Pedro Cohen

Kathryn Benson

Ginger Anne

Jenny Chen

Her Royal Highness Sammy Kitty

Jason Reuer

Mo Manx

Marilyn Cope

My dog, Niky

Guadalupe Del Angel

Jack, a stray I took in that died of heart disease a year ago and broke my heart

Hollie Blanchard

Shadow

Carol Greenough

Izzy Chicken Herman

Heidi Herman

AJ

Pamela Bridgen

Sylvester

Please submit a memorial photo to be hung from our sky garden at the clinic in honor of your loved one.

We're a small organization doing BIG work!

3rd Annual Sexless In Seattle

In honor of National Feral Cat Day on October 16th we held our 3rd annual Sexless in Seattle clinic. Trappers, clinic volunteers, clinic staff and volunteer veterinarians came together to alter 107 cats at one clinic. The long awaited, newly designed T-shirt added high fashion to our mission that day.

Our Sexless in Seattle T-shirt traveled to Washington DC and awed the Alley Cat Allies audience at Dr. Wilford’s lecture. (The shirt went home with ACA National Director, Becky Robinson.) Another T-shirt was a hit in Chicago when PetSmart Charities’ Aimee St. Arnaud displayed a SIS T-shirt during her lecture at the Fix It Forum.

National Feral Cat Day has grown in popularity each year all across the USA. We love being part of this event that spreads the good news about free-roaming cats and brings attention to Trap-Neuter-Return as the humane approach to free-roaming cats.

Thank you to all the people who made our Sexless In Seattle, 2007 a success!

Three cheers to our volunteer veterinarians who donated their time! Dr. Sonya Webster-Hills, Dr. Rob Echentile, Dr. Penny Olson and Dr. Betsy Larson.

Partnering Organizations ‘get it’

Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project gets it. The Dugan Foundation gets it. These two FCSNP partners “get it” that our communities need more access to spay/neuter.

PSNP will open a high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinic in Tacoma in early 2008 for cats and dogs. The Dugan Foundation is in the planning stages to build a high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter clinic in Pierce County. By increasing spay/neuter, these two organizations will make history in Pierce County by dramatically reducing the number of animals entering area shelters. We loudly applaud their commitment!

Volunteers Change Lives!

We're rapidly approaching our 40,000th surgery. Our invaluable volunteers made this possible. Without them, without YOU, we could not succeed.

Thousands more cats await our help. Whether one hour per month or one day a week, we have the volunteer job for you.

Here is a partial list of how you can volunteer your time:

- Outreach volunteer (boothing)
- Donation box monitor
- Events and fundraisers
- Distribute brochures
- Clinic volunteer (vets, techs, assistants)
- Data entry
- And more!

Go to www.feralcatproject.org and click on *Help Make A Difference*. And join our team!

One Conversation, Three Spays

Within 24 hours of boothing at the NW Women's show, three kittens from Auburn were spayed at the FCSNP thanks to Sally Halela. As Sally put it, "A purrfect example of the feral cat prevention aspect of FCSNP." Education and access to spay/neuter clearly make a difference. Sally and these three kittens are definite proof. Thank you, Sally!

Outreach volunteers are on the front lines for FCSNP. They educate people who are new to the feral cat issue. And they make our services known to folks who are already feeding free-roaming cats but need to know more about spay/neuter. If you are interested in boothing at some events for FCSNP, please let us know. Go to www.feralcatproject.org and click on *Help Make A Difference*.

Seniors Fostering Kittens

Caroline's 89-year old mother, Marge, became upset when foster kittens first came to their house. Certainly Caroline had enough to do without any more responsibilities, but it wasn't long before the kittens' biggest fan was none other than Marge!

Living on fixed incomes, Caroline and Marge spend many hours at home. Fostering kittens has truly changed Marge's attitude. Formerly withdrawn, she now looks forward to each and every day – playing and snuggling with kittens. She takes great care to be sure even the shyest kitten adjusts to the household. All receive thoughtful names and get "Marge laptime" at every opportunity. When the supervising caregiver stops by their home, both Caroline and Marge are beaming.

This foster home has changed the lives of these formerly free-roaming kittens. Seems like the kittens have changed a couple of lives, too.

Seeing Is Believing

"Well, I must say that if everyone visited that clinic and saw how many cats there are, they would never wait before they spay or neuter their cats!!! I have learned a big lesson.... really got a dose of reality. Thanks for all your work." Words from a newcomer to our clinic who had waited a year before trapping the cats in her community.

FCSNP Volunteer 'Breeds' Cats For Profit

"It was a long and intense labor, but they arrived spayed/neutered and are available for adoption," writes Mary Ann Davis. They've arrived! Adorable knitted cat hats, which are so greatly appreciated with the onset of our autumn weather. Mary Ann spends about 7 hours per hat and donates it all to FCSNP. The hats are sized for children and adults and come in a variety of colors. Buy yours at the clinic while they last! Thank you, Mary Ann!



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

FCSNP Ambassador

Volunteer Opportunities

Help spread the word at regional events about the important work of FCSNP.

SAS Annual Hockey Event

Northwest Women's Show

Average Joe Cat Show

University District Street Fair

Fremont Fair

Furry 5K

Colors of Compassion Art Show

PAWSwalk

St. Francis Sunday

Gifts with a Cause

PETCO in Covington

For more information about these events, go to:

groups.google.com/group/sexlessinseattle/web/in-the-community-volunteer-opportunities or email Volunteer Coordinator, Amber at amber.fcsnp@gmail.com.



Largest Gift in FCSNP History

Last month Roger showed his love for free-roaming cats by making the largest donation in the history of Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project. His gift couldn't have come at a better time. Despite five surgery days per week, our reservations fill almost immediately during our "busy season". We can't meet the demand for spay/neuter.

Our first priority for part of Roger's gift is to offer more surgery. His gift makes possible adding a full surgery day per week during the entire busy season, approximately July until December. This translates into an immediate increase of 1500 cats spayed or neutered. But this is not all.

Roger's gift was so generous that we feel compelled to strategize and insure the bulk of his donation is put to its best use. This planning is underway by the Board of Directors and Executive Director, Julie White.

The world is a better place for free-roaming cats because of the compassion and goodness of Roger James. He will forever change the lives of thousands of cats. Roger put a sparkle in the eyes of all of us who share his love of helping the cats in our community. Thank you, Roger!

10 Year Clinic Sponsorships

Betti Johnson

Michelle Peyree

Sue and Steve Heaps

Lea Lucky and Kay Joubert

Debbie Livingstone



Changed Lives

Living on Social Security doesn't afford any luxuries for Norm, in fact, some days it's tough for him to get a meal. But he always finds a way to feed the neighborhood cats that he's grown to love. He's been feeding them for years. They keep him company.

A few months ago, Norm stopped by the FCSNP clinic to ask us what we'd charge to alter his free-roaming cats. "There is no charge," Kim told him.

He paused in disbelief that our services are free. In his eighties, this gentleman's generation grew up with a pride that made it difficult for him to accept our services without offering something in return. He had no money to spare. We emphatically told him that our services are free. We merely wanted to help his cats.

For several visits Norm came by without any cats. He clearly wanted to get his free-roaming cats spayed and neutered but could not quite accept free services. At last, we explained to Norm that we had a specific donation that would pay for his cats. That was what he needed to hear.

Norm brought several different cats on three occasions. He borrowed carriers, which of course, he returned promptly afterward. At every visit, this elderly gentleman joked, smiled and showed his gratitude with cheer and kindness.

Our daily goal is to forever change the lives of free-roaming cats. Clearly we change the lives of their people, too.

Five Days a Week Not Enough

For ten years, FCSNP clinics have filled to the brim almost as soon as reservations become available. This is great news for the thousands of cats that get spayed and neutered, but it's not great news for the cats that can't fit into our clinics.

Even with five days/week of surgery during the busy season, we remain full. To help with demand, FCSNP has urged several local organizations with spay/neuter services to offer spay/neuter to free-roaming cats, but to no avail.

This plea became more urgent after a study revealing that the majority of kittens entering shelters come from free-roaming cats.

Currently, free-roaming cats have few options for spay/neuter in our community apart from FCSNP.

We implore more organizations around our state to offer high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter that includes free-roaming cats. In the mean time, FCSNP depends on your support to increase capacity and provide more spay/neuter for cats each year. Your support is lifesaving. Please consider increasing your donation to FCSNP this year, so that we may increase capacity and change the lives of even more cats. Thank You!

Our Mission to Save Cats Feral Cat Spay/Neuter Project

To save the lives of homeless cats by providing access to high volume spay/neuter surgery in a safe and humane environment, collaborating with others and mentoring like-minded organizations to increase spay/neuter in their regions.